Making Jangla Telephone Exchange Operational

†930. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the telephone exchange of Jangla, in the district of Shimla in Himachal Pradesh usually remains out of order resulting great disturbance to the telephone consumers whose numbers start with 58 and 59;

(b) whether it is also a fact that even after the inspection made by higher officers of telephone department no improvement has been noticed in the situation till now;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the action-plan made to completely place this exchange in order; and

(d) the instructions given/being given to the officers to keep this exchange fully operational keeping in view the needs of this hilly areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. The telephone exchange of Jangla in the district of Shimla in Himachal Pradesh generally remains operational throughout the year. However, the services got affected recently during the month of October 2005 due to media (OFC) break down and damage to equipment due to high voltage etc.

(b) No, Sir. After the inspection carried out by higher officers of telephone department, following actions/steps have been taken to improve the services:

(i) The old conventional power plant has been replaced with SMPS type power plant.

(ii) The faulty/weak exchange battery cells have also been replaced.

(iii) Engine alternator has been made operational.

(iv) Special maintenance of outdoor network has been carried out.

As a result, the fault rate (faults per hundred subscribers per month) has reduced form 7.4 (in Oct. 04) to 6.59 (in Oct.05).

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†Original notice of question was received in Hindi.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) All concerned staff at Jangla, SDO (T) Rohru and DET Rohru have been instructed to make all out efforts to keep the exchange operational.

Penalty on the private operators

†931. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govenment are aware of the fact that faulty mobile service has become incurable ;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government to improve the mobile service;

(c) whether Government are also aware of the fact that the proposal to penalize the operators have been put in shelves, if so the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether it is a fact that mobile operators are providing faulty services because TRAI has no authority to penalize them and Department of Tele-Communications is unconcerned about it; if so, the steps taken by Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) with the expansion of subscriber base, mobile networks are to be upgraded by various service providers to meet Quality of Service (QoS) standards. This is a continuous process in terms of re-engineering of network by addition of more Base Transerivers Station (BTSs),adopting tecniques such as installation of boosters and adoption of micro cell architecture. It is noticed that network upgradation excercise is not commensurate with the increase in subscriber base which, *inter-alia*, include installation of additional BTSs.

(b) The Government has taken steps to simplify procedures for clearance of sites for installation of towers apart from releasing more spectrum by co-ordination with existing users.

(c) In cases of violation of Licences conditions by telecom operators that come to the notice of the Government, appropriate action including levy of penalty is being taken by the Government from time to time.

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†Original notice of question was received in Hindi.